DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 375 887 JC 940 603

TITLE	Entering Student Survey (1990-1993). Report #93-4.
INSTITUTION	Gateway Community-Technical Coll., New Haven, CT.
PUB DATE	93
NOTE	13p.
PUB TYPE	Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160) -- Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Career Choice; Community Colleges; *Enrollment Influences; Questionnaires; *School Surveys; *Student Attitudes; *Student Educational Objectives; Student Motivation; Tables (Data); *Trend Analysis; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students
IDENTIFIERS	Gateway Community Technical College CT

ABSTRACT

Each fall, Gateway Community-Technical College (GCTC), in Connecticut, surveys new students to ascertain academic and career plans, employment status, goals, and factors that influenced their selection of GCTC. This report presents comparative results from surveys conducted in fall 1990, 1992, and 1993 and includes the following data: (1) from 1990 to 1993, the percentage of students seeking bachelor's degrees declined from 35.1% to 30.5%, those seeking graduate degrees declined from 16.5% to 13.6%, while those seeking associate degrees and certificates rose from 56.4% to 60.4% and 5.8% to 9.2%, respectively; (2) in each of the 3 years, more than 60% indicated that they were certain of their program choice, approximately 20% were somewhat certain, and 5% were uncertain; (3) similarly, slightly less than two-thirds were very certain of career goals and 27% were somewhat certain; (4) for each year, about 70% indicated that they were employed, with a slightly higher percentage of full-time than part-time workers; (5) from 1990 to 1993, the percentage of students who were seeking employment increased, while the percentage of those that chose not to work or were unavailable for employment decreased; (6) since 1990, the most important reasons for attending have been to obtain a degree or certificate and to increase knowledge in an academic field; and (7) factors which consistently influenced attendance over the 3 years were course offerings, proximity to home, cost, academic reputation, teacher/friend advice, and former/current student advice. (KP)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

GATEWAY COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Long Wharf Campus: 60 Sargent Drive, New Haven, CT 06511 • **North Haven Campus**: 88 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473

ED 375 887

REPORT # 93-4

ENTERING STUDENT SURVEY

(1990 - 1993)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
A. Sturtz
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Development
213 Long Wharf Campus
789-7030

JC 940 603

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Entering Student Survey

Comparative Results: 1990, 1992, 1993

Introduction

Each fall the Office of Institutional Research surveys new students to ascertain their academic and career plans, employment status, goals they hope to attain while attending college, and the major factors that influenced their selection of Gateway Community-Technical College.

This report presents the comparative results of the Entering Student Survey for fall semesters 1990, 1992, and 1993. No information is provided for 1991 because of the poor survey return rate (91). The increase in the number of surveys from 1990 and 1992 (342 and 316, respectively) to 1993 (568) is attributed to informing new students at pre-registration orientation about the survey, enlisting the support of faculty and counselor in collecting the surveys prior to registration and monitoring a table at registration to collect surveys. Although the survey was provided for new students on both the Long Wharf Campus and the North Haven Campus, 87.7% of the respondents were enrolled on the Long Wharf Campus. A more efficient collection mechanism will be developed at the North Haven Campus for the next administration of the survey.

The highlights of the surveys, primarily for 1993, are described below. Responses to all questions by year, are presented in tabular form at the end of the report. Survey forms for each year are also included.

Degree Plans at GCTC

An increasing percentage of new students indicated that they plan to work toward an associate degree at Gateway Community-Technical College; in fall 1993, that figure topped 60 percent. Of these 343 students, 158 indicated that this would be their highest degree, 120 plan to complete the bachelors degree and 46 plan to continue towards a graduate/professional degree.

Just under 30 percent (28.5%) indicated they had no intention of receiving a degree or certificate from Gateway. This was a slightly higher percentage than 1992 but lower than the 1990 percentage. Of those 162 students in fall 1993, 50 indicated no intention of receiving a degree or certificate anywhere; 33 plan to work toward an associate degree, 46 toward a baccalaureate, and 27 toward a graduate/professional degree.

Courses at GCTC

Increasingly, a higher percentage of students did not respond to this question. Of those who did respond, about the same percentage indicated they would only take one course or four or more courses; more indicated two courses, while fewer indicated three courses. A sample of the students will be analyzed in a future report to ascertain changes in course and degree plans at GCTC.

Ultimate Degree Plans

From 1990 to 1993 there was a decline in the percentage of students who indicated they would ultimately seek no degree; there also was a decline among those indicating bachelors and graduate degrees as their ultimate goal. Conversely, there was an increase in the percentage of those indicating either a certificate or associate degree. However, from 1992 to 1993, there was a decline in the percentage who noted a certificate or associate degree as the highest credential and an increase in the percentage who indicated bachelors or graduate degree.

Program Choice/Career Goals

In each of the three years, more than 60 percent of the new students who completed surveys indicated they were very certain of their program choice; about 20 percent were somewhat certain and about five percent were uncertain.

Similar figures reflect certainty of career goals: slightly less than two-thirds were very certain and almost 27 percent were somewhat certain. Percentages for uncertain about career goals do not cluster around a single figure.

Employment Status

About 70 percent of the new students responding to the survey each year indicated they were employed--with a slightly higher percentage indicating full-time than part-time employment. An increasing percentage indicated they are seeking employment; a decreasing percentage indicated they did not choose to work while a student or were unavailable for employment. Less than two percent are unemployed or underemployed displaced homemakers.

Students' Goals to be Achieved

Goals selected by new students did not change appreciably since 1990, nor did the priority order. By a large margin, the most important and second most important reasons for attending were, respectively, to obtain a degree or certificate and to increase knowledge in an academic field. Other goal statements ranked in the top five were: prepare for a new career (all three years), complete courses to transfer (1992, 1993) formulate career plans (1990, 1992), develop ability to be independent (1990, 1993), and upgrade skills to advance in current job (1990).

Factors Influencing Attendance

As with students' goals, factors that influenced the decision to attend GCTC were almost the same, as well as consistent in ranking, over the three years: course offerings, close to home and cost were ranked one, two or three each year; academic reputation ranked fourth each year; fifth ranked were teacher/friend advice (1990) teacher/counselor advice (1992) and former/current student advice (1993).

What degree, if any, do you plan to work toward at GCTC?	Fall 90 (n=342)	Fall 92 (n=316)	Fall 93 (n=568)
None	32.5%	27.2%	28.5%
Certificate	5.8%	10.4%	9.2%
Associate	56.4%	57.6%	60.4%
No Response	5.3%	4.7%	1.9%

If you are not seeking a degree or certificate, please indicate the number of credits you plan to take here.	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
One	12.0%	12.0%	11.4%
Two	10.5%	5.4%	8.3%
Three	6.1%	7.4%	4.6%
Four or more	14.0%	14.9%	14.8%
No Response	57.3%	59.8%	60.9%

What degree do you ultimately plan to earn?	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
None	12.9%	8.5%	9.2%
Certificate	2.6%	8.9%	6.2%
Associate	26.0%	35.8%	35.2%
Bachelors	35.1%	28.5%	30.5%
Graduate/Professional	16.4%	11.7%	13.6%
No Response	7.0%	6.6%	5.5%

How certain are you of your program choice?	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
Very Certain	60.8%	69.6%	66.0%
Somewhat Certain	17.3%	21.8%	21.1%
Uncertain	4.4%	5.4%	4.9%
No Response	17.5%	3.2%	7.9%

How certain are you of yóur career goals?	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
Very Certain	62.9%	67.1%	63.4%
Somewhat Certain	26.6%	26.9%	26.8%
Uncertain	5.6%	4.7%	7.4%
No Response	5.0%	1.3%	2.5%

Please indicate your current employment status		Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
Employed	full-time	38.6%	40.8%	38.0%
	part-time	32.2%	27.8%	30.3%
Homemaker		7.0%	4.1%	3.5%
Unemployed	seeking employment	11.1%	14.9%	18.7%
	do not choose to work while a student	5.0%	3.8%	4.2%
	unavailable for employment	2.3%	3.5%	1.8%
Displaced Homemaker	unemployed	0.9%	1.9%	0.9%
	underemployed	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%
No Response		2.6%	2.5%	1.8%

Please select three goals and indicate their priority order for you.	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
Most Important	obtain degree or certificate	obtain degree or certificate	obtain degree or certificate
2nd Most Important	increase knowledge in academic field	increase knowledge in academic field	increase knowledge in academic field
3rd Most Important	upgrade skills to advance in current job	prepare for a new career	prepare for a new career
4th Most Important	develop my ability to be independent	complete courses to transfer	complete courses to transfer
5th Most Important	Prepare for a new career/formulate career plans	formulate career plans	develop my ability to become independent

Please indicate the three factors that most influenced your decision to attend GCTC	Fall 90	Fall 92	Fall 93
Most Important	Course offerings	Close to home[1]	Close to home
2nd Most Important	Cost	Course offerings[2]	Course offerings
3rd Most Important	Close to home	Cost	Cost
4th Most Important	Academic reputation	Academic reputation	Academic reputation
5th Most Important	Teacher/friend advice	Teacher or counselor advice	Former/current student's advice

[1]Highest combined response: Most + 2nd + 3rd
[2]Highest response: Most Important

ENTERING STUDENT SURVEYS

1990, 1992, 1993

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT INFORMATION SURVEY

1. What degree, if any, do you plan to work toward at this college?
   1. Not seeking a certificate or Degree
   2. One-year Certificate
   3. Associate Degree

2. If you are not seeking a Certificate or Degree, please indicate the number of courses you plan to take at South Central:
   1. One course
   2. Two courses
   3. Three courses
   4. Four courses
   5. Five or more courses

3. What is the highest degree you ultimately plan to earn?
   1. Not seeking a Certificate or Degree
   2. One-Year Certificate
   3. Associate Degree
   4. Bachelor's Degree
   5. Graduate or Professional Degree

4. Please indicate program in which you intend to enroll. _____ _____
   How certain are you of this choice?
   1. Very 2. Somewhat 3. Uncertain

5. How certain are you of your career goal(s)?
   1. Very 2. Somewhat 3. Uncertain

6. Current employment status. (Please circle only one)
   1. Employed full-time
   2. Employed part-time
   3. Not employed outside the home
   4. Not employed but would like to work
   5. Not employed and do not care to work while attending College
   6. Unavailable for employment
   7. Displaced homemaker and unemployed
   8. Displaced homemaker and underemployed

7. Does the company you work for have a tuition reimbursement plan?
   1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

8. Company name _____ _____
   Name of tuition reimbursement or Personnel Officer
   _____

9. Do you feel you have a permanent handicap?
   1. Yes 2. No

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ _____

10. When would you prefer to take your classes? Circle one.
    1. Weekday mornings
    2. Weekday afternoons
    3. Weekday evening
    4. Anytime during the week
    5. Anytime during the weekend

11. Is there a course in which you wish to enroll but cannot because:
    1. Closed
    2. Inconvenient time
    3. Not offered
       list _____ _____

12. The following statements reflect the goals of many college students. Please circle the numbers of ALL those goals that are important to you:
    1. Increase knowledge/understanding an academic field
    2. Obtain a certificate or degree
    3. Complete courses necessary to transfer to another educational institution
    4. Discover my career interests
    5. Formulate long-term career plans and/or goals
    6. Prepare for a new career
    7. Improve my knowledge, technical skills, and/or competencies required for my job or career
    8. Increase my chances for a raise and/or promotion
    9. Became actively involved in student life and campus activities
    10. Increase my participation in cultural and social events
    11. Meet people
    12. Increase my self-confidence
    13. Improve my leadership skills
    14. Improve my ability to get along with others
    15. Learn skills that will enrich my daily life or make me a more complete person
    16. Develop my ability to be independent, self-reliant, and adaptable
    17. From the list of goals in Question 12, please select the three that are most important to you and enter the number below

    MOST IMPORTANT _____
    SECOND MOST IMPORTANT _____
    THIRD MOST IMPORTANT _____

14. Please circle ALL of the factors that influenced your choice to attend our college.

1. Academic reputation of our college
2. Course offerings
3. Former student's advice
4. Teacher's or friend advice
5. Counselor's advice
6. Employer's suggestion
7. Will help me retain my current employment
8. Costs
9. Availability of financial aid
10. Institution's social reputation
11. Close to home
12. Wanted a change in scenery or location
13. Range and availability of student services
14. I can identify with fellow students
15. Inconvenient to go elsewhere
16. Previously taken a NON-CREDIT course

15. How did you learn about our college? You may indicate more than one item.

1. Newspaper (name) _____
2. Radio (station) _____
3. TV (station) _____
4. Representative of this college
5. College catalog
6. People at my high school, place of employment
7. Relatives, friends, or acquaintances
8. College placement/education information service
9. Material received in the mail
10. Information display at an education fair, shopping center, county fair, or similiar location

16. Do you feel you will need special help in any of the following areas as you continue your education? (Please circle ALL that are appropriate)

1. Expressing ideas in Writing
2. Improving Reading Skills
3. Improving Mathematics Skills
4. Developing Better Study Skills and Habits

17. Indicate the extracurricular activities in which you would like to participate while attending this college. (Please circle ALL that are appropriate)

1. Student Government
2. Student Publications (Newspaper, Yearbook)
3. Instrumental Music
4. Chorus
5. Debate
6. Dramatics, Theater
7. Religious Organizations
8. Racial or Ethnic Organizations
9. Athletics/Cheerleading
10. Intramural Athletics
11. Other _____

Would you please provide the name and address of someone whom you believe would like to know more about SCCC and its program:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

ENTERING STUDENT SURVEY
Fall 1992

Social Security Number_____

1.___ What degree, if any, do you plan to work toward at this college?
1. No degree or certificate
2. Certificate
3. Associate Degree

2.___ If you are <u>not</u> seeking a certificate or degree, please indicate the number of courses you plan to take at South Central:
1. One 2. Two
3. Three 4. Four
5. Five or more

3.___ What degree do you ultimately plan to earn?
1. None 2. Certificate 3. Associate
4. Bachelors 5. Graduate/Professional

Please indicate the program in which you intend to enroll: _____

4.___ How certain are you of this choice?
1. very 2. somewhat 3. uncertain

5.___ How certain are you of your career goals?
1. very 2. somewhat 3. uncertain

6.___ Please indicate your current employment status:
1. employed full time
2. employed part time
3. not employed outside the home
4. not employed but would like to work
5. not employed; don't care to work while a student
6. unavailable for employment
7. displaced homemaker and unemployed
8. displaced homemaker and underemployed

7.___ Does the company you work for have a tuition reimbursement plan?
1. yes 2. no 3. uncertain

8. Company Name_____
Name of tuition reimbursement or Personnel Officer
_____

9.___ Do you feel you have a permanent handicap?
1. yes 2. no

10.___ When do you <u>most</u> prefer to take classes (choose one)?
1. weekday mornings
2. weekday afternoons
3. weekday evenings
4. anytime during the week
5. anytime Saturday
6. anytime Sunday

11.___ I could not enroll in this course because it was:
1. closed
2. only one section offered; inconvenient time
3. not offered
course name_____

12 Please select the **three most important** goals <u>for you</u> and list them below in priority order:
1. increase knowledge in academic field
2. obtain a degree or certificate
3. complete courses necessary to transfer
4. discover career interests
5. formulate career plans/goals
6. prepare for new career
7. upgrade skills/knowledge to advance in current job (raise, promotion, etc)
8. become actively involved in campus activities
9. participate in cultural/social events
10. meet people
11. increase self-confidence
12. increase leadership skills
13. improve ability to get along with others
14. learn skills that will enrich my daily life or make me a more complete person
15. develop my ability to be independent, self-reliant and adaptable

_____ MOST IMPORTANT
_____ 2ND MOST IMPORTANT
_____ 3RD MOST IMPORTANT

13. Please circle the **three most important** factors that influenced your decision to attend South Central:
1. college's academic reputation
2. course offerings (selection, time etc.)
3. former/current student's advice
4. teacher/counselor's advice
5. employer's suggestion
6. retain/upgrade current employment
7. cost
8. availability of financial aid
9. college's social reputation
10. close to home
11. range/availability of student services
12. identify with fellow students
13. inconvenient to go elsewhere
14. previously taken non-credit course here

(continued next column)

[PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ON REVERSE]

GATEWAY COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Entering Student Survey: Fall 1993

Social Security Number_____

1.___ What degree do you plan to work toward at GCTC?
1. No degree or certificate
2. Certificate
3. Associate Degree

2.___ If you are not seeking a certificate or degree, please indicate the number of courses you plan to take here:
1. One 3. Three
2. Two 4. Four or more

3.___ What degree do you ultimately plan to earn?
1. None 4. Bachelors
2. Certificate 5. Graduate/Professional
3. Associate

4. Please indicate the program in which you intend to enroll:
_____

5.___ How certain are you of this choice?
1. very 2. somewhat 3. uncertain

6.___ How certain are you of your career goals?
1. very 2. somewhat 3. uncertain

7.___ Please indicate your current employment status:
1. employed full time
2. employed part time
3. not employed outside the home
4. not employed but would like to work
5. not employed; don't care to work while a student
6. unavailable for employment
7. displaced homemaker and unemployed
8. displaced homemaker and underemployed

8.___ Does the company you work for have a tuition reimbursement plan?
1. yes 2. no 3. uncertain

9. Company Name_____

10. Please select three goals from the list below and indicate their priority order for you:
1. increase knowledge in academic field
2. obtain a degree or certificate
3. complete courses necessary to transfer
4. discover career interests
5. formulate career plans/goals
6. prepare for new career
7. upgrade skills/knowledge to advance in current job (raise, promotion, etc)
8. increase self-confidence
9. learn skills that will enrich my daily life or make me a more complete person
10. develop my ability to be independent, self-reliant and adaptable
11. OTHER_____

____ MOST IMPORTANT
____ 2ND MOST IMPORTANT
____ 3RD MOST IMPORTANT

11. Please circle the three factors that most influenced your decision to attend Gateway:
1. college's academic reputation
2. course offerings (selection, time etc.)
3. former/current student's advice
4. teacher/counselor's advice
5. employer's suggestion
6. retain/upgrade current employment
7. cost
8. availability of financial aid
10. close to home
11. inconvenient to go elsewhere
12. OTHER

12. Most of my courses will be taken at the
1. Long Wharf Campus
2. North Haven Campus

BEST COPY AVAILABLE